

These are individuals who are dedicated to this mission. They are not there because they want more money. They are there because they like what they do. They feel it is important for the future of this country and for the security of the American people. We have opportunities now to make sure that when we pay these individuals, we pay them correctly, we pay them adequately for their services. It is important that Congress continue this oversight.

We have an important part of this bill that addresses the issue of compensation reform. I am hoping that all our colleagues will rise and support this bill because of the important aspect of compensation reform for the men and women who are doing the valiant job of representing this country in faraway places in the dark of night, doing things that most other people would not do. These are true heroes in the American legend. We should all stand up and thank them for the work they have done. And I thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman GOSS) for the opportunity to speak out on this rule and hope that everyone will support the rule.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), my good friend.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding, and I also want to commend our chairmen and ranking members for the great job that they do under what, I think, are very difficult circumstances. And I would also associate myself with the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), about giving good compensation for great work that is being done around the world for our national security by the intelligence community employees.

Having said that, I also want to state that I rise in strong support of this rule for H.R. 2417, but I also want to note that there are many of us that have concerns about issues that are vitally important to our national security, the lack of diversity in the intelligence community, and certainly the lack of a good solid plan to diversify and understand and recruit people that know and understand and speak different languages and come from different cultures. Those are critical and important in light of the attacks of September 11.

I would urge everyone to support this rule, but at the same time I also think it is vitally important that we continue to focus. And as my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), made mention, it is difficult in this environment because we operate in a closed oversight manner and we do not have the benefit of outside input and scrutiny. So it is critical.

And I know that our chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), and the ranking member are committed to continue to work in these two critical areas, diversity and lan-

guage proficiency. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), his remarks about a concern about disenfranchising authorizing committees by the use of supplemental appropriations and other such matters as has sometimes happened. I do believe that the authorizing committees provide a critical contribution, a valuable contribution to the legislation of this institution. And I think it is unfortunate that sometimes in the press of business that we sometimes bypass that wisdom and that contribution because of urgency or other matters, which are understandable, but which should be an aberration rather than the practice.

And I can assure the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and others who are interested that I am going to be spending some time and, hopefully, get a point or two across on the Committee on Rules that our view is that regular order is a whole lot better than supplemental appropriations.

The second thing I wanted to point out, very briefly, I am well aware this is not a perfect bill. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) and I and the members of the committee have worked very hard. We have excellent staff. This is not a perfect bill. It is a very, very good bill. It deserves the attention of the Members on the floor today. Certainly the rule is appropriate to bring it forward.

I think I can promise on behalf of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) and all the Members that the minute this authorization bill passes we start on the next authorization bill. And there is plenty to be done.

There are a number of things we will hear about in the debate later today. These are things that we already have taken aboard, and we will be pushing hard on. So I am convinced that from the legislative perspective we are doing the job that the people of this country have asked us to take on in the oversight, and I am very proud to be part of that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 78, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call

up House Resolution 450 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 450

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 78) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 450 is a closed rule that provides for the consideration of H.J. Res. 78, a continuing resolution that will ensure further appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions of the most recent continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 75, are scheduled to expire this Friday, November 21. The House Committee on Appropriations continues to work hard to complete the unfinished appropriations business of Congress, and we are hopeful that this work can be completed in the coming days. The resolution before us today, H.J. Res. 78, ensures funding through this weekend until November 23.

The House of Representatives passed all of its fiscal year 2004 appropriations bills long ago. We should complete Foreign Operations, Transportation-Treasury appropriate bills in the very near future. In addition, negotiations are under way to complete Agriculture, VA-HUD, Commerce-Justice-State, Labor-HHS, and the District of Columbia appropriations bills as well. However, to ensure that essential government services continue to operate while the omnibus appropriations bill is completed, this rule makes in order another continuing resolution to give us the additional time to complete the appropriations process in an orderly manner.

Mr. Speaker, under the joint resolution that H.J. Res. 450 makes in order, the provisions of the most recent continuing resolution will be extended for

2 more days. The Committee on Rules approved this rule last night. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Another month has passed and this Republican government still refuses to do its most basic job, funding the Federal Government that they control. That is why we are here, once again, to pass yet another short-term continuing resolution to keep Republican incompetence from shutting down the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know why Republicans refuse to do the job taxpayers pay them for, especially while millions of those same taxpayers cannot find jobs on their own. Perhaps they are so busy twisting arms to dismantle Medicare and force seniors into HMOs that they cannot be bothered with deciding how badly to short-change education in this year's spending bills. Or maybe the White House has been consumed with spending their expensive efforts to rebuild Iraq that they do not have time to worry about America. Who knows. But it is clear that this Republican government has stopped working for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if you watched "West Wing" last night on television, but actually the subject of the "West Wing" program was this exact issue, a continuing resolution. And at that point you had a Republican Congress trying to blame a Democratic President for closing down the government. But here, of course, we have a Republican Congress and a Republican President. So what is going on here? Republican President, Republican Congress, and we still have to have a short-term continuing resolution because those folks cannot do their job.

Just take a look at the record. Today, millions of hard-working Americans no longer share in the prosperity that they enjoyed during the Democratic-led economic boon of the 1990s. In fact, since the Republican Party took over the government nearly 3 years ago, more than 3 million American jobs have been lost in the private sector. Or to put it another way, since George W. Bush got his job, millions of Americans have lost their jobs. That is the worst jobs record of any President since Herbert Hoover in the Great Depression.

Over the same period, Republican fiscal irresponsibility has turned record surpluses into astronomical and out-of-control deficits, increasing the death tax on all Americans and threatening the future of Medicare and Social Security. In the private sector, Mr. Speaker, that kind of failure would get you fired. But Republicans are counting on

their special interest friends to save their political skins. And they have spared no taxpayer expense to do their work.

Take, for example, the small elite group of big contributors who fund Republican campaigns like the Bush campaign Pioneers and now the Bush campaign Rangers. They are undoubtedly happy because this Republican government has drained the U.S. Treasury by repeatedly passing expensive tax breaks for the wealthiest few. And earlier this week Republicans gave big polluters a pass to keep fouling the air of some of America's major metropolitan areas, including my home in north Texas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are desperately trying to pull the wool over the eyes of America's seniors so that they can shower billions of dollars on HMOs, insurance companies, and the big drug companies. Under the Republican plan, millions of senior citizens would pay more and get less for Medicare. Up to one in four Medicare beneficiaries would actually pay more for prescription drugs than they do right now. Up to 7 million seniors would be forced to join an HMO and give up their choice of doctor or pay higher Medicare premiums. Between 2 and 3 million retirees would lose the drug coverage they now get from their former employers. And millions of seniors would go without drug coverage for months each year and be forced to pay premiums year round even when they are not getting any drug benefits.

While seniors lose under the Republican plan, drug companies and HMOs win big. Republicans are giving insurance companies a \$12 billion slush fund. They are giving big drug companies \$139 billion in windfall profits because they are actually making it illegal for Medicare to negotiate lower prescription prices for seniors. That is right, Mr. Speaker, Republicans can find billions of dollars for HMOs and drug companies, but they cannot afford year-round drug coverage for senior citizens. No wonder Republicans do not want their plan to take effect until after the 2004 elections. They are afraid that once seniors sit down and do the math they will see the Republicans have sold them a bill of goods.

This kind of outrage, Mr. Speaker, is simply business as usual under this Republican government. Nothing gets done for the American people, but Republicans and their allies do plenty of harm to the American people. It is a shameless abuse of power, Mr. Speaker; and the American public are the victims.

Meanwhile, we have before us another 2-day continuing resolution, which is the subject of this rule today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1100

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wis-

consin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I simply take the time to indicate that the House has no choice but to proceed to pass the short-term CR in hopes that the House will come closer to finishing its work by the time we have to pass another one. But let me also say that I would hope that we would use the time constructively so that Members still can get out of here for the year on a reasonable schedule.

I note last night, for instance, that we are within a hair's breadth of having total agreement on the VA-HUD appropriations and on the CJ bill. The transportation bill has already been filed, and it is hoped that the foreign ops bill will be filed and acted upon also. That would mean that we could reduce considerably the number of bills that would have to go into the omnibus. I have no particular ax to grind about whether they do or they do not, but it would seem to me that it would be one way to at least assist on un-snarling what remains to be done before we finish.

With that, I would simply say when the CR comes, I hope that we could dispose of it in a favorable fashion so we can get on with the remainder of our work for this week.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let us be very clear about what is going on here. The current continuing resolution runs out tomorrow. The Republican leadership is giving itself another 2 days. So by passing this next CR, that takes us through Sunday. They will not tell us when the next CR, how far it will go, whether we will be here Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of next week doing the people's business. They will not tell us when the omnibus bill is going to come to the floor or whether it will come to the floor. They will not tell us how long the next CR will run, whether it will run to December 8 or whether it will run until some time in February. Either they simply do not know, or they will not tell. Either way, they make it very difficult to legislate in an orderly fashion.

We would all like to wind up the business for this year. I would hope that the Republican leadership can finally get their act together, bring the remaining appropriations bills or an omnibus bill to the floor in an orderly way, so that we can conclude the people's business this year and not continue to operate on a 2- or 3-day CR while the Republicans try and figure out what their next step is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST)

that it is not that we do not want to inform them. It is that we do not know.

We are dealing with people in the other body who have not given us any indication of when they are prepared to move. But I will say that I agree 100 percent with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY). We are moving piece by piece on these. And our side would like very much to pass them one at a time and get out of here Friday night or Saturday. I do not think it will be that soon on Friday night, but we are very close to getting our work done on the appropriations process so we would like to do that one at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on House Resolution 450 will be followed by 5-minute votes on the following motions to suspend the rules:

S. 286, by the yeas and nays;

S. 686, by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 2, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 645]

YEAS—406

Ackerman	Boyd	Crowley
Akin	Bradley (NH)	Culberson
Alexander	Brady (PA)	Cunningham
Allen	Brady (TX)	Davis (AL)
Andrews	Brown (OH)	Davis (CA)
Baca	Brown (SC)	Davis (FL)
Bachus	Brown, Corrine	Davis (IL)
Baird	Brown-Waite,	Davis (TN)
Baker	Ginny	Davis, Jo Ann
Baldwin	Burgess	Davis, Tom
Ballance	Burns	Deal (GA)
Ballenger	Burr	DeFazio
Barrett (SC)	Burton (IN)	DeGette
Bartlett (MD)	Buyer	Delahunt
Barton (TX)	Calvert	DeLauro
Bass	Camp	DeLay
Beauprez	Cannon	DeMint
Becerra	Cantor	Deutsch
Bell	Capito	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bereuter	Capps	Diaz-Balart, M.
Berkley	Capuano	Dicks
Berman	Cardin	Dingell
Berry	Cardoza	Doggett
Biggert	Carson (IN)	Dooley (CA)
Bilirakis	Carson (OK)	Doolittle
Bishop (GA)	Carter	Doyle
Bishop (NY)	Case	Dreier
Bishop (UT)	Castle	Duncan
Blackburn	Chabot	Dunn
Blumenauer	Chocola	Edwards
Blunt	Clyburn	Ehlers
Boehlert	Coble	Emanuel
Boehner	Cole	Emerson
Bonilla	Collins	English
Bonner	Conyers	Eshoo
Bono	Cooper	Etheridge
Boozman	Costello	Evans
Boswell	Crane	Everett
Boucher	Crenshaw	Farr

Fattah	Levin	Rogers (KY)
Feeney	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (MI)
Ferguson	Lewis (KY)	Rohrabacher
Flake	Linder	Ros-Lehtinen
Foley	Lipinski	Ross
Forbes	LoBiondo	Rothman
Ford	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Frank (MA)	Lowe	Royce
Frelinghuysen	Lucas (KY)	Ruppersberger
Frost	Lucas (OK)	Rush
Gallegly	Lynch	Ryan (OH)
Garrett (NJ)	Majette	Ryan (WI)
Gerlach	Maloney	Ryun (KS)
Gibbons	Manzullo	Sabo
Gilchrest	Marshall	Sanchez, Linda
Gillmor	Matheson	T.
Gingrey	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Gonzalez	McCarthy (MO)	Sanders
Goode	McCarthy (NY)	Sandlin
Goodlatte	McCollum	Saxton
Gordon	McCotter	Schakowsky
Goss	McCrery	Schiff
Granger	McDermott	Schrock
Graves	McGovern	Scott (GA)
Green (TX)	McHugh	Scott (VA)
Green (WI)	McInnis	Sensenbrenner
Greenwood	McIntyre	Serrano
Grijalva	McKeon	Sessions
Gutierrez	McNulty	Shadegg
Gutknecht	Meehan	Shaw
Hall	Meeks (NY)	Shays
Harman	Menendez	Sherwood
Harris	Mica	Shimkus
Hart	Michaud	Shuster
Hastings (FL)	Millender-	Simmons
Hastings (WA)	McDonald	Simpson
Hayes	Miller (FL)	Skelton
Hayworth	Miller (MI)	Slaughter
Hefley	Miller (NC)	Smith (MI)
Hensarling	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)
Hill	Miller, George	Smith (TX)
Hinchey	Mollohan	Smith (WA)
Hinojosa	Moore	Snyder
Hobson	Moran (KS)	Solis
Hoeffel	Moran (VA)	Souder
Hoekstra	Murphy	Spratt
Holden	Murtha	Stark
Holt	Musgrave	Stearns
Honda	Myrick	Stenholm
Hooley (OR)	Nadler	Strickland
Hostettler	Napolitano	Stupak
Houghton	Neal (MA)	Sullivan
Hoyer	Neugebauer	Sweeney
Hulshof	Ney	Tancredo
Hunter	Northup	Tanner
Hyde	Norwood	Tauzin
Inslee	Nunes	Taylor (MS)
Israel	Nussle	Terry
Issa	Oberstar	Thomas
Istook	Obey	Thompson (CA)
Jackson (IL)	Olver	Thompson (MS)
Janklow	Ortiz	Thornberry
Jefferson	Osborne	Tiahrt
Jenkins	Ose	Tiberi
John	Otter	Tierney
Johnson (CT)	Owens	Toomey
Johnson (IL)	Oxley	Towns
Johnson, E. B.	Pallone	Turner (OH)
Johnson, Sam	Pascarell	Turner (TX)
Jones (NC)	Pastor	Udall (CO)
Kanjorski	Paul	Udall (NM)
Kaptur	Payne	Upton
Keller	Pearce	Van Hollen
Kelly	Pelosi	Velazquez
Kennedy (MN)	Pence	Visclosky
Kennedy (RI)	Peterson (MN)	Vitter
Kildee	Peterson (PA)	Walden (OR)
Kilpatrick	Petri	Walsh
Kind	Pickering	Wamp
King (IA)	Pitts	Waters
King (NY)	Platts	Watson
Kingston	Pombo	Watt
Kirk	Pomeroy	Waxman
Kleczka	Porter	Weiner
Kline	Portman	Weldon (FL)
Knollenberg	Price (NC)	Weldon (PA)
Kolbe	Pryce (OH)	Weller
Kucinich	Putnam	Wicker
LaHood	Quinn	Wilson (NM)
Lampson	Rahall	Wilson (SC)
Langevin	Ramstad	Wolf
Lantos	Rangel	Woolsey
Larsen (WA)	Regula	Wu
Larson (CT)	Rehberg	Wynn
Latham	Renzi	Young (AK)
LaTourette	Reyes	Young (FL)
Leach	Reynolds	
Lee	Rodriguez	

NAYS—2

Filner Jackson-Lee (TX)

NOT VOTING—26

Abercrombie	Fossella	Nethercutt
Aderholt	Franks (AZ)	Radanovich
Clay	Gephardt	Rogers (AL)
Cox	Herger	Sherman
Cramer	Isakson	Tauscher
Cubin	Jones (OH)	Taylor (NC)
Cummings	Lewis (GA)	Wexler
Engel	Markey	Whitfield
Fletcher	Meek (FL)	

□ 1125

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. MORAN of Virginia changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 645 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 286.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 286, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 646]

YEAS—415

Ackerman	Bonner	Clyburn
Aderholt	Bono	Coble
Akin	Boozman	Cole
Alexander	Boswell	Collins
Allen	Boucher	Conyers
Andrews	Boyd	Cooper
Baca	Bradley (NH)	Costello
Bachus	Brady (PA)	Cramer
Baird	Brady (TX)	Crane
Baker	Brown (OH)	Crenshaw
Baldwin	Brown (SC)	Crowley
Ballance	Brown, Corrine	Culberson
Ballenger	Brown-Waite,	Cunningham
Barrett (SC)	Ginny	Davis (AL)
Bartlett (MD)	Burgess	Davis (CA)
Barton (TX)	Burns	Davis (FL)
Bass	Burr	Davis (IL)
Beauprez	Burton (IN)	Davis (TN)
Becerra	Buyer	Davis, Jo Ann
Bell	Calvert	Davis, Tom
Bereuter	Camp	Deal (GA)
Berkley	Cannon	DeFazio
Berman	Cantor	DeGette
Berry	Capito	Delahunt
Biggert	Capps	DeLauro
Bilirakis	Capuano	DeLay
Bishop (GA)	Cardin	DeMint
Bishop (NY)	Cardoza	Deutsch
Bishop (UT)	Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart, L.
Blackburn	Carson (OK)	Diaz-Balart, M.
Blumenauer	Carter	Dicks
Blunt	Case	Dingell
Boehlert	Castle	Doggett
Boehner	Chabot	Dooley (CA)
Bonilla	Chocola	Doolittle